

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-15 remain pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

Applicant amends the specification to address certain informal matters. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration of these amendments.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 8, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Robinson (U.S. Pat. No. 5,326,150). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the rejection, in the sole interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claim 8 to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 9. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 8 should be moot.

Claims 11 and 13 depend from amended claim 8 and should be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as claim 8.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-7.

The Examiner states that claims 9, 10, 12 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant amends claim 8 to include the limitations of

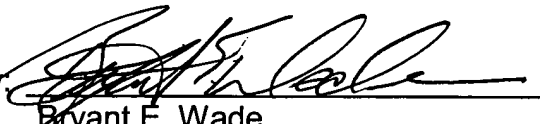
claim 9, amends the dependency of claim 10 from claim 9 to claim 8, and rewrites claims 12 and 15 in independent form by incorporating claim 8 therein. Therefore, all pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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